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Gathering Storm



"Stream ecologists (including me) have traditionally studied pristine streams because we love babbling brooks, but increasingly we realize that's not where the problems are," says Professor Breck Bowden, who to develop a national model for making decisions about polluted stormwater run-off. (Photo courtesy of Breck Bowden)

As cul-de-sacs replace cornfields, and driveways and gambrel roofs fill forest meadows, rain pours down through concrete gutters and culverts with a speed and intensity impossible in undeveloped areas. As the water rushes, it picks up fertilizer, fuel and pollution, and drops them in streams and, eventually, Lake Champlain.

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The Women Who

Built UVM Sharon Snow had an epiphany last May, at an event celebrating 20 years of women's studies at UVM and honoring the group she calls the university's founding mothers. "These women radiate such passion, energy and enthusiasm," recalls Snow. "I knew we had to tell their stories."

A Peek Inside the

Commons As design work on the University Commons continues, the November meetings of the UVM Board of Trustees included an update on the project that is envisioned as a transformational building for the university and critical to increasing enrollments.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Nov. 20, 12-5 p.m.
Non-Profit
Fellowship Day:
Information for
students seeking one
and two-year full-
time stints. Living /
Learning E-107, 633
Main Street.
Information: 656-
3450 or [Career
Services](#)

Nov. 20, 6 p.m.
Film and talk:
"American Pictures:
A Personal Journey
Through the
American
Underclass," with
Jacob Holdt. Room
235, Marsh Life
Sciences Building.
Information: 656-
7924 or [American
Pictures](#)

Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Concert: UVM small
jazz ensembles.
Southwick Ballroom,
Redstone.
Information: 656-
3040

Nov. 22, 9 p.m.
Concert: "Paranoid
Social Club," free
show sponsored by
Student Activities.
Billings North
Lounge.

Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Lecture: Women and
economic
development in
antebellum Vermont,
with Dawn Saunders,
economics. Memorial
Lounge, Waterman.
Information: 656-
4389

Dec. 3, 12:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Chinese in
the Montreal
Mosaic," with Jeanne
Shea, anthropology.
John Dewey Lounge,
Old Mill.

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An early peek: This detail view of a preliminary rendering of the design for the proposed University Commons shows the center of the skylit building from Main Street. This building's design will change (perhaps dramatically) as architects and campus planners solicit feedback and refine their plans. (*WTW Architects*)

Rubenstein Renaming, Commons Plans Highlight Trustees Meeting

The Nov. 11-13 meeting of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees, held off-campus in Manchester in order to make the university's leaders more accessible to residents of Southern and Central Vermont, brought the first public look at preliminary architectural sketches for the proposed University Commons and official approval of the first named school in university history.

A trustee vote renamed a key academic unit the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. The school was formerly called the School of Natural Resources. The new name captures the wide scope of the school's mission and recognizes the philanthropy of Steve and Beverly Rubenstein of New Vernon, N.J., who recently donated \$15 million to support environmental studies and science. Their gift, the largest in UVM history, led to another historical first: UVM's first-ever named and endowed school or college.

Summary coverage of the board's major committees follows:

Committee of the Whole: Trustees got their first look at preliminary drawings of the proposed University Commons and were updated on the financial feasibility study being conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers of President Daniel Mark Fogel's vision for the university.

Nicotine May Help Calm ADHD Storm, Study Finds

Research shows that adolescents with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder smoke at twice the rate of normal adolescents and as adults, they have a harder time quitting than their counterparts without ADHD. Neuroscientists like Alexandra Potter, a post-doctoral associate in psychiatry, want to know why smoking is so attractive to the ADHD population.

For the past several years, Potter has examined the effects of nicotine — in the form of transdermal patches — on cognition in adolescents with ADHD. She says the real challenge in ADHD patients is not truly a deficit in attention, but rather an issue of attentional control, or keeping focused on the task at hand. The ability to maintain focused attention and to control impulsive behavior is known as inhibition. For an ADHD patient, that is the real problem. And, it turns out, that's where nicotine plays a role.

Potter's inhibition research uses a computer program that asks the study participant to type an x or o, then beeps to tell the participant to stop. Because of ADHD, the adolescent cannot stop. Potter's first study, which was presented at the Society for Biological Psychiatry and at last week's Society for Neuroscience meetings, compared how well kids with ADHD performed on this computer-response test when taking Ritalin, nicotine and a placebo. Nicotine was shown to be as good or better than Ritalin at eliciting a normal inhibition response from the group, which consisted of eight adolescents with ADHD. Each participant came in for a total of three days during which they received a patch and a pill, one or both of which were placebo, in order to double-blind the study.

"Our research indicates that both nicotine and Ritalin improve inhibition, and, in fact, bring the performance of adolescents with ADHD into the range of normal adolescence. We believe that this is related to the effect of nicotine on dopamine in the brain," says Potter.

She is now working on an investigator-initiated study funded by Targacept, Inc., a privately-held research and development pharmaceutical company that is focused on the development of nicotine-like therapies. Potter is continuing to look at nicotine's effect on cognition. This time, however, she is using nicotine, a placebo and three different doses of ultra-low doses of mecamylamine — a drug developed in the 1950s that is active at the brain's nicotinic receptors. The study will take place in UVM's General Clinical Research Center.

The first phase of the University Commons design will be completed by Pittsburgh-based WTW Architects in two weeks. Detailed plans will be presented to the trustees at the February meeting, with the goal of having the board approve the \$70 million, 196,000 square foot building at the May meeting. If approved, the University Commons will open in the fall of 2007. Planners will hold a number of open meetings with the UVM community over the next several months to solicit feedback on the building's design from faculty, staff and students.

Facilities and Technologies: Hank Colker of WTW Architects offered a floor-by-floor description of his firm's evolving design for the University Commons, which is currently envisioned as a four-story building running along Main Street clad in red brick and stone and punctuated with large windows and skylights. (See [A Peek Inside the Commons](#) for details of Colker's presentation.)

Finance and Budget: Michael Gower, vice president for finance and administration, discussed the PricewaterhouseCoopers financial planning model that will serve as the road map to accomplishing the university's 10-year vision. The complex model is designed to move in concert with the shifting financial status of the university. Once the model is complete, UVM will seek proposals from software firms to develop a system and interface that will enable planners to easily access and see the relationship between a variety of financial data, from tuition and retail sales to research grants and capital expenditures. This will allow university planners to integrate financial information with strategic thinking, budgeting and capital planning in far more sophisticated ways than are now possible.

Other committee news:

- Once the model is complete, UVM will seek proposals from software firms to develop a system and interface that will enable planners to easily access and see the relationship between a variety of financial data, from tuition and retail sales to research grants and capital expenditures.
- The university took in approximately \$1.2 million more than it spent in the first quarter of FY 2004 with about \$900,000 in revenue coming from the rental of space at the new Trinity campus.

Academic and Student Programs: An enrollment report by Institutional Studies Director Fred Curran showed a fall undergraduate enrollment of 8,004, representing the highest total since 1991. The increase of 403 students is the largest one-year increase in the past 30 years. The Vermont undergraduate enrollment of 3,011 is the highest in four years and the out-of-state undergraduate enrollment of 4,993 is the highest ever.

Provost John Bramley said that as enrollment has increased so has the quality of students. He added that UVM has "rung a very positive bell in the state of Vermont" and that "more Vermonters are applying than ever." Bramley added that the

"But nicotine itself isn't the therapy of choice," says Potter. "The amount of nicotine needed to get positive effects in ADHD patients is close to a level that produces negative side effects. Our hope is to help develop better therapeutics that may work similarly to nicotine without its side effects."

According to Potter, finding a more effective treatment for adolescents with ADHD would likely reduce smoking among this population, because it would reduce their use of cigarettes to self-medicate their ADHD symptoms.

To find out more about Potter's study, which is seeking 13- to 25-year-old ADHD patients who are nonsmokers, call Sally Ross Nolan in the Clinical Neuroscience Research Center at 847-9488.

MPA Program Experiencing a Resurgence

The slow and painful decline of the master of public administration program leading to a near-death experience less than two years ago was a difficult process for Professor Robert Lawson to witness.

Lawson, a longtime advocate of the program, which has experienced a revival over the past year, was dean of the Graduate College when the MPA degree was approved in 1983 with professor Frank Bryan serving as director. The program was initially housed under the Graduate College as a free-standing major, but was moved to the School of Business Administration where it remained into the late 1980's in what Lawson refers to as "the platinum years."

"It was my view at the time that we needed not only a smart and dynamic private sector, but a smart and dynamic public sector as well," the professor of psychology says. "It made a lot of sense for UVM to offer a program that would benefit the public sector in this way."

After a series of highly politicized moves to various departments, the program eventually began to suffer, in part because of its unstable, nomadic nature. In an effort to find a stable, permanent home, a presidential commission looked at the problem and found that regardless of location, the program needed to be either terminated or immediately stabilized. Despite awarding an average of just seven MPA degrees annually between 1999 and 2002, less than half as many as in 1996, officials opted for stabilization.

"It had hit rock bottom – dirt level," Lawson says. "It was at the edge and something needed to be done. The fact that it's still around and doing well is a testimony to the resiliency of the program and the support of the community when it was down and out."

Despite some strong disagreement regarding where the MPA program should be housed, a resolution was passed in April 2002 to put it in the Community Development and Applied

increased number of students hasn't caused problems for local residents.

Other committee news:

- Committee members voted unanimously to rename the School of Natural Resources the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Graduate school enrollment is on the rise. This year's fall enrollment of 1,312 is 206 higher than last year and represents the largest single-year increase in 30 years.

New Initiatives, Challenges Ahead for Campus Parking

With the waiting list for zone one parking trailing off into infinity, and a campus construction boom set to complicate the issue further, Kathy Decarreau uses a surprising word to describe her new job as Director of Parking and Transportation Services: "Exciting."

Her job, she says, is an adventure involving the allocation of scarce resources, tricky techniques for modeling and modifying human behavior, and direct impact on the environment and quality of life for the city and campus.

"I get the full range of issues coming across my desk," she says.

About 5,000 parking spots — and 4,900 daily commuters — are within Decarreau's supervision. Those numbers seem to add up to less than multi-year waits for faculty and staff permits, but parking in the university's core administrative and academic area is heavily impacted, with demand running at about 120 percent of capacity.

"You can't plunk down parking garages in a historic district," she says. "You have to find different kinds of answers."

Decarreau and her colleagues are exploring the possibility of sub-zoning zone one lots, which would free up additional permits for workers in areas with less demand for zone one parking (around Given, for example). These changes are difficult to plan and implement, and they raise fairness issues: Merely taking individuals off the top of the 500-person waiting list for central campus spots might make the Waterman lots even more crowded, and do nothing to fill the quieter confines around the water tower.

Another issue the campus parking team is wrestling with is central permits for individuals who don't commute in on a daily basis. Faculty and staff on the Trinity campus, downtown or in Colchester want zone one permits to attend meetings, run errands and use libraries — how best to accommodate them? Parking officials also see that some underused zone two lots, at Trinity and University Heights for example, are as convenient to some campus workplaces as their zone one counterparts.

Economics Department in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Based on numbers, the decision to revamp the struggling 20-year-old program appears to have been prudent. The MPA program currently has 28 students, split evenly between men and women, including 13 new students for the 2003-2004 academic year. The increase is a major contributor to an overall rise in graduate school enrollment. This year's fall enrollment of 1,312 is 206 higher than last year and represents the largest single-year increase in 30 years.

Co-directors Chris Koliba and Kenneth Becker expect to have as many as 40 students by 2007, when they also expect the program to earn national accreditation.

Koliba said that a number of community collaborations through CDAE and the Center for Rural Studies, which conducts program evaluation for state and local government and non-profits and engages in a variety of applied research projects, gives the program a strong community and research base.

By building stronger ties between the MPA program, extension system, continuing education, state agencies, non-profit organizations and local municipalities, Koliba and Becker hope to gain a deeper understanding of the current needs of practicing and future public administrators.

"Based on these needs, we'll try to bring the program into balance by offering courses that blend practice with theory," Koliba said. "Drawing in faculty from across the campus and tapping experienced practicing public administrators to teach courses for us is crucial to our future success."

Asian Studies Outreach Wins National Award

The Asian Studies Outreach Program is among the inaugural winners of the Goldman Sachs Foundation Prizes for Excellence in International Education. The prizes of \$25,000 each in five categories (elementary/middle school, high school, higher education, state, and media and technology) were announced Nov. 18 at a Washington, D.C. ceremony.

UVM was awarded the first-ever prize in the higher education category in recognition of the efforts of its Asian Studies Outreach Program to promote the study of Asia in Vermont schools. ASOP, which is an arm of Asian Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences, coordinates teacher exchanges between China and Vermont; helps teachers develop standards-based K-12 curricula; and hosts annual overseas outreach courses in Asia for teachers, students and educational leaders. Programs are interrelated and open to Vermont educators and students.

Accepting the award on behalf of UVM was Jue-Fei Wang, ASOP co-founder and director; Lisa Cox, vice chair of the Vermont Board of

Decarreau is making carpooling a personal priority, and is looking at ways to expand UVM's policies to offer incentives for carpooling two, or even one, days a week. She also hopes that more faculty and staff will take advantage of the university's one-year-old arrangement with the Chittenden County Transportation Authority, which allows employees to ride CCTA buses to work for free.

Alternatives will become more important over the next several years, as construction of the proposed University Commons and life sciences research facility unavoidably take dozens, or even hundreds, of Main Street spaces off-line during building phases. Decarreau is working to bolster shuttle service to handle peak demand better without leaving too much excess during slower periods. She'd also like to see more faculty and staff ride the shuttles, which are currently mostly used by students. (Within the next several years, the campus may receive funding for several new compressed natural-gas buses through a federal grant program.)

"In some of these areas we have a better handle on the problems than the solutions," she says, "but we're enthusiastic about moving forward and making progress."

Education; Vt. Rep Carolyn Branagan; and Brian Nelligan, social studies chair at Essex High School. The group comprises the Vermont delegation for the States Institute on International Education in the Schools, also taking place this week in Washington, D.C.

In response to research documenting that U.S. students are woefully uninformed about the rest of the world, the Goldman Sachs Foundation and Asia Society established the Prizes for Excellence in June 2003 to identify and recognize the best examples of international education for K-12 students and teachers, and to disseminate practical and innovative models worthy of broader visibility and replication. Prizewinners, selected from more than 300 applicants at schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, exemplify how international knowledge and skills are no longer a luxury available only to high achieving or affluent students; they are a necessity.

The Goldman Sachs Foundation is a global philanthropic organization promoting excellence and innovation in education; since 1999, the foundation has awarded grants in excess of \$43 million to date. The Asia Society is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization and America's leading institution dedicated to fostering understanding of Asia and communication between Americans and the peoples of Asia and the Pacific.

For more information on the prizewinners visit [Asia Society](#). To learn more about the Asian Studies Outreach Program at UVM, call 656-7985 or visit [About ASOP](#).

theview

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Lane Series Holiday Concert Offers Hesperus in "Wintergrace"

The UVM Lane Series will present its annual holiday concert on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the UVM Recital Hall. Early music and folk superstars Hesperus will provide an eclectic evening of traditional holiday music, titled "Wintergrace." The Hesperus trio — Tina Chancey, Scott Reiss and Bruce Hutton — will be joined by Vermont fiddler extraordinaire, Pete Sutherland, who is nationally known for his potent originals and his intense recreations of age-old ballads and fiery fiddle tunes.

The program for "Wintergrace" includes medieval estamples and old-time breakdowns, ballads and shape note hymns, and some favorite vintage vaudeville numbers such as Hank Snow's "Reindeer Boogie." Hesperus will bring their trademark stage setting of antique quilts and more than two dozen early and folk instruments including dulcimer and dumbek, rebec and recorder, viol and banjo, mouth bow and limberjack.

Cited in the *Washington Post* for their "trademark blend of expertise and playfulness," Hesperus has toured nationally and internationally for more than two decades and performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall, The Cloisters and Lincoln Center, and are former performers in residence at the Smithsonian Institution. Heard regularly on PRI and NPR, they have also provided the music for films including Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow*.

Tickets are \$25/adult, \$20/advance student/\$5 student rush at door, if available, and available by calling 86-FLYNN. For secure online ordering, visit [UVM Lane Series](#).

Chiara String Quartet to Play Lane Series

The Chiara String Quartet, an acclaimed group of young musicians on violin, viola and cello, will perform a Lane Series Concert on Nov. 21 at the UVM Recital Hall. Tickets are \$25.

The program, "Chiarascuro," offers three pieces that study light and darkness in music by Haydn, Schubert and Robert Sirota. The Sirota piece, "Triptych," was written in response to Sept. 11 and is accompanied onstage by Deborah Patterson's painting of the same name.

Information and tickets: [UVM Lane Series](#).

Historian Looks at Women and the Pre-Civil War Vermont Economy

Dawn Saunders, visiting assistant professor of economics, will discuss "Women and Economic Development in Antebellum Vermont" in a Center for Research on Vermont seminar on Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.

The economic historian analyzes Vermont's economic past through probate records, family letters and archival local histories. Her work on the pre-Civil War period challenges some conventional myths about women's economic lives (that, for example, young women were an idle potential labor force or that young women worked in mills out of economic necessity). The backdrop for her talk's analysis is the "wool boom" period of the 1830's, one of history's great economic bubbles.

Information: 656-4389

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Awards and Honors

Dr. **Robert Karp**, assistant professor of medicine, was appointed to a national consensus panel to develop a Clinical Practice Guideline for the American Medical Directors Association titled "Stroke — treatment and prevention in nursing and rehabilitation facilities."

The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration recently awarded the **Division of General Internal Medicine** a three-year \$565,977 grant to develop a clinical research training curriculum that will be delivered long-distance and provide training and mentoring to learners from around the country. Key members of the project include Dr. **Benjamin Littenberg**, Carleen and Henry Tufo Professor of Medicine; Dr. **Alan Rubin**, research associate professor of medicine; Dr. **Richard Pinckney**, assistant professor of medicine; **Dana Walrath**, assistant professor of medicine; **Paul Turner**, assistant professor of medicine; and Dr. **Charles MacLean**, associate professor of medicine.

Dr. **Alan Rubin** was recently promoted to research associate professor of medicine. In September, he presented a talk titled "A Curriculum on Medical Errors" at a conference sponsored by the American Academy of Family Practice and the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Rubin recently received a grant from the Vermont Department of Health to fund a study he is leading, "Training Health Professionals in Tobacco Cessation."

Publications and Presentations

John Gennari, assistant professor of English and Interim Director of the ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies Program, has two essays out this fall: "Baraka's Bohemian Blues," in *African American Review* and "Giancarlo Giuseppe Alesandro Esposito," in the book *Are Italians White?: How Race is Made in America*.

Peter Nobes, primary care clinician at UVM's Center for Health and Wellbeing, was a recent presenter at the Combined Annual Meeting of the New England and New York State College Health Association in Saratoga Springs. Nobes' presentation, "Learning to Love Peer Review", taught participants how to establish or improve an effective peer review program in a college health setting.

Paul Turner, assistant professor of medicine, was recently appointed Director of Analysis for the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care. He was also co-author of a recent report in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* titled "Pharmacotherapy Cost Comparison Among Health Professional Students."

Dana Walrath, assistant professor of medicine, participated in an Interdisciplinary Retreat sponsored by the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Chantilly, Va. The retreat concentrated on ways to improve education in women's health in medical school. Later this month, she will be presenting a paper titled "Gender and genes in the evolution of sex differences" at the American Anthropological Association meeting in Chicago. She has also been named co-director of the College of Medicine's Medical Student Leadership Course.

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Gathering Storm

Bowden and colleagues hope 'redesigning American neighborhoods' is a cost- and socially effective answer to the complex, growing problem of stormwater pollution

By Kevin Foley



"Stream ecologists (including me) have traditionally studied pristine streams because we love babbling brooks, but increasingly we realize that's not where the problems are," says Professor Breck Bowden, who to develop a national model for making decisions about polluted stormwater run-off. *(Photo courtesy of Breck Bowden)*

As cul-de-sacs replace cornfields, and driveways and gambrel roofs fill forest meadows, rain pours down through concrete gutters and culverts with a speed and intensity impossible in undeveloped areas. As the water rushes, it picks up fertilizer, fuel and pollution, and drops them in streams and, eventually, Lake Champlain.

Vermont's belated reckoning with this so-called stormwater is commanding headlines, and one of the key areas of confrontation is South Burlington's humble Potash Brook, a

net of tributaries that touches the UVM campus and encompasses a range of suburban and urban landscapes. State and local agencies, environmental groups, developers and academics all have varying interests and projects around the brook, but Breck Bowden, the Patrick Chair in Watershed Science and Planning, wants to use the troubled waters for an experiment to begin redesigning the American neighborhood.

With a \$225,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, Bowden and Alan McIntosh, professor of environment and natural resources, and colleagues from the Gund Institute of Ecological Economics, are going to embark on a project exploring the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of different stormwater interventions at Dorset Farms, a South Burlington subdivision whose streams feed Potash Brook. The questions they hope to answer are fundamental: Does it make sense to try to fix stormwater problems at the neighborhood or single-house levels? Or is it better or more practical to step in miles away, perhaps by building a detention pond to stop large amounts of dirty water just before they hit the lake?

The group will analyze the biology and chemistry of the brook, consult with the neighborhood about their priorities and concerns, and build and test an appropriate demonstration intervention, which might involve changing the form of a stream running through the neighborhood or planting vegetation that could help retain and filter dirty water. The work will also lead to a decision-support tool or framework that could work in any watershed to help planners choose the best ways to step in and manage stormwater.

"People and their activities are the ultimate source of the factors that cause the impairments," says Bowden. "So getting people to behave differently is another type of stormwater treatment."

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[The Women Who Built UVM](#)

Sharon Snow had an epiphany last May, at an event celebrating 20 years of women's studies at UVM and honoring the group she calls the university's founding mothers. "These women radiate such passion, energy and enthusiasm," recalls Snow. "I knew we had to tell their stories."

[A Peek Inside the Commons](#)

As design work on the University Commons continues, the November meetings of the UVM Board of Trustees included an update on the project that is envisioned as a transformational building for the university and critical to increasing enrollments.

Listening and learning

At this early point, the project's goals and priorities on the way to an ultimate goal of testing an intervention and developing decision tools are vague — and that's exactly how Bowden and McIntosh want them. Changing behavior requires a commitment, and making a commitment requires playing a role in the decisions and analyses that lead up to it. So the Dorset Farm project will involve public input (and measure social costs and benefits) as well as scientific analysis.

"We need to understand more about how the pollutants are moving through the development," says McIntosh. "We're trying to collect as much information as we can about the neighborhood and the stream."

The project will involve extensive neighborhood meetings, but at this stage, only a few preliminary conversations have taken place. But already, the results of those talks have surprised the scientists. Bowden thought the neighborhood's key issues would be sediment in the brooks — but what he's hearing from Dorset Farms neighbors is that they're concerned about flooding in their backyards.

"Those two things are actually linked," Bowden says. "We have to learn something about their flooding and what we can do about it, and they need to learn that the flooding is transporting things out of their backyard."

Bowden, who was heavily involved in urban-suburban-rural watershed issues in New Zealand, is used to this kind of social outreach. McIntosh, who specializes in stream biology, is less familiar with working with individual homeowners. Both feel that the scope and direction of the project will be informed by the collaboration with the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, whose faculty offer additional expertise in public outreach and modeling of social and financial costs and benefits.

"The team is a happy coincidence, we have people with different approaches and backgrounds. This is an issue that requires people who are good with stream biology and chemistry, modeling and public response," McIntosh says. "Once we do something in that community we need to identify that it's made an improvement."

Cost and progress

As the project's title implicitly recognizes, the Dorset Farms group believes that tackling suburban runoff at its source is preferable environmentally and socially to trying to deal with matters miles downstream. They hope that South Burlington residents will buy into the plans that emerge from the planning sessions, and that the project will generate excitement. But they recognize that things may not work out that way.

"This is learn as we go," says McIntosh. As the effort moves from the development, to the brook to the whole Lake Champlain watershed, he recognizes that local intervention may have too high of a practical and sociological price tag.

So far, though, the neighborhood effort seems poised to use social and political levers to create larger stormwater solutions. The one-year EPA grant, which the group hopes will be renewed in subsequent years, is complemented by independent efforts and funding in the City of South Burlington and the Winooski Natural Resources District. Bowden also points out that another development is being planned for an area just south of Dorset Farms, and what he learns about stormwater dynamics and remedies could inform the design of the new subdivision.

The generic framework that will emerge from the effort could have influence far beyond Burlington. McIntosh says there are no similar mechanisms to guide planners through the process of focusing priorities and considering multiple pluses and minuses of various sorts of water interventions to come to final, solid decisions.

"That effort is unique, and if it works well, it could be a national model," McIntosh says. "Governments all around the country could use it make legitimate, defensible decisions based on environmental, social and economic

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The Women Who Built UVM

By Lynda Majarian

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Robyn Warhol (left) and Sharon Snow discuss the history of UVM women's studies for an oral history project. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Sharon Snow had an epiphany last May, at an event celebrating 20 years of women's studies at UVM and honoring the people she calls the university's "founding mothers."

"These women radiate such passion, energy and enthusiasm," recalls Snow, director of the UVM Women's Center. "I knew we had to tell their stories."

And so began the Women's Founder

History Project — an endeavor to capture on videotape the oral histories of women who built the Women's Studies Program from an inaugural course, circa 1980, to a major and minor comprising courses in more than a dozen disciplines. It is also the story of the women who fought to forge a Women's Center on campus more than a decade later.

Sadika Sulaiman, a graduate student in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration, has taken on the project as an internship/practicum for the fall semester. She composed interview questions, identified instrumental women and is conducting and recording interviews.

"Everyone we talk with tells us, 'I didn't do very much,'" says Sulaiman. "But this campus has progressed so much because of their efforts."

Each interview subject, adds Snow, "leads us to other women who own a piece of the story."

A difficult march

To map the progress of women at UVM requires an understanding of the barriers blocking their path. Women made up only 20 percent of the UVM faculty in the 1970s, for example. A report compiled by the UVM chapter of the American Association of University Women in 1979 concluded that university women were still not equally represented. Many women interviewed have recounted feeling marginalized within their departments and being discounted on the tenure track, says Sulaiman, as well as reporting gender inequities in salaries.

Edith Hendley, professor emerita of molecular physiology and biophysics, discussed with Sulaiman the power paradigm among medical students in the 1970s. Male medical students socialized with surgeons, Hendley recalls, while female students had to scrub in the nurses' quarters. Esther Rothblum, professor of psychology, remembers when her female peers were so few that they would gather to welcome each new woman faculty member by taking her out to lunch.

The 70s also witnessed women's centers springing on many American college campuses, but that idea wouldn't take hold at UVM until the early 1990s. Exactly when our campus Women's Center was established, however, is a

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As cul-de-sacs replace cornfields, and driveways and gambrel roofs fill forest meadows, rain pours down through concrete gutters and culverts with a speed and intensity impossible in undeveloped areas. As the water rushes, it picks up fertilizer, fuel and pollution, and drops them in streams and, eventually, Lake Champlain.

[A Peek Inside the Commons](#)

As design work on the University Commons continues, the November meetings of the UVM Board of Trustees included an update on the project that is envisioned as a transformational building for the university and critical to increasing enrollments.

matter of opinion. The first President's Commission on the Status of Women at UVM (created by an existing Women's Advisory Council) was appointed by President Lattie Coor in 1988. The organization, which works to give women an institutional voice, initially shared cramped office quarters on South Prospect St. with the Women's Studies Program. Many people consider this to have been the first, albeit unofficial, Women's Center.

By 1991 a group of women faculty and staff recognized, and began laying the groundwork for, a facility that could provide women with "one-stop shopping" for educational, administrative and advocacy services. Among them was Joan Smith, then Women's Studies director and currently dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who recalls "peeking in office windows" for a more spacious and central location.

It soon became obvious that securing space, financial and collegial support to realize their goal would not be easy. "A Women's Center was not considered important for the campus," Snow explains.

Later that year alumna Lydia Dodge '57 contributed the \$75,000 that allowed UVM to acquire the roomy building at 34 S. Williams St. where Women's Studies and PCSW could co-exist. But the Women's Center didn't become an official campus organization until 1996. Peg King wrote the proposal for the center, waded through campus policies and protocols to see it through and served as the center's first director. PCSW still uses the center as its home base, though the women's studies program has moved to the Old Mill. Today, women comprise 34 percent of faculty, 64 percent of staff and more than 50 percent of students.

Painting a fuller picture

As they weave together the threads of UVM's feminist fabric, Snow and Sulaiman have interviewed Dodge and King; Ann Livingston and Pam Brown, both instrumental in getting the Women's Center onto solid ground; and former directors Rothblum, Smith and Robyn Warhol, professor and chair of English. On Friday they will talk with Beth Mintz, chair of sociology and another founder.

"No matter what I teach or where my research interests take me, my heart will always be with Women's Studies," Mintz says. She is quick to credit Jan Falta and Virginia Clark, professors emerita of sociology and English, respectively, who taught the university's first Women's Studies courses.

Snow plans more interviews with instrumental women. She also will solicit the stories of men who supported the Women's Center, including Don DeHayes, dean of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, and William Luginbuhl, professor emeritus of pathology and former associate medical dean.

"And we haven't even begun to gather photographs, documents and other archival materials," Snow says. The completed project — a documentary video — will be completed sometime next year. The documentary will reach students through courses in history, sociology, women's studies and other disciplines.

"There is so much about women's roles in our history that people don't know," Snow says. For example, she notes, many people don't connect the Terrill building with its namesake, Bertha Terrill, who became the university's first female faculty member in 1909. Her portrait was installed in Memorial Lounge in 1991.

Sulaiman wishes she could finish the project after her practicum ends in December. "As a woman, and a person of color, it's important to me that our faculty, students and staff get the recognition they deserve. Part of that is learning about the university's history — what the status of women, and men, used to be, and how far we've come."

It's a good bet that they will. The Women Founders History Project should serve, as oral histories have since the beginning of time, to inspire and inform future generations.

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A Peek Inside the Commons

More details on the \$70-million proposed centerpiece of President Daniel Mark Fogel's vision

By Tom Weaver



An early peek: This detail view of a preliminary rendering of the design for the proposed University Commons shows the center of the skylit building from Main Street. This building's design will change (perhaps dramatically) as architects and campus planners solicit feedback and refine their plans. (*WTW Architects*)

As design work on the University Commons continues, the November meetings of the UVM Board of Trustees included an update on the project that is envisioned as a transformational building for the university and critical to increasing enrollments.

Hank Colker of WTW Architects briefly reviewed the research that guides the project planning at the session. He stressed that a major goal of the commons is to unite the academic and residential parts of campus. The building's

location, along Main Street between Morrill and Terrill halls, is key to that. Being at a campus crossroads would assure that the building would be highly used, Colker said. Compared to other institutions, UVM's Billings Student Center is under-used, drawing approximately 4,000 visitors per day. By contrast, the University of New Hampshire student center draws 15,000 visitors per day.

Colker walked trustees through the University Commons plans as they currently stand. The first floor would connect directly to the Main Street pedestrian underpass, a route many students walk daily to and from the residence halls on the southern half of campus. The first floor would include computer facilities and lounge space, a café/bistro, retail stores, the first floor of a performing arts/theater space that would seat a total of 600, and a black box performance/meeting space with a capacity of 150-200.

Colker noted that research on-campus and in Burlington showed a need for performance spaces of these sizes. The locations would host a variety of events — film series, student orientation events, debate, and many other student clubs and organizations.

The second floor of the commons would be devoted primarily to dining space, but would also include the textbook section of the campus bookstore. This level of the building would provide access to the 200-seat balcony of the performing arts hall and an indoor connection through a pedestrian overpass to the Bailey/Howe library.

The third floor of the University Commons would be dedicated to student organization offices such as student government, the *Vermont Cynic*, and numerous other groups. Staff offices for the Division of Student Life, currently located in Billings, would also be on the third floor. The main retail space for the campus bookstore would be the final piece of this level of the commons.

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[The Women Who Built UVM](#)

Sharon Snow had an epiphany last May, at an event celebrating 20 years of women's studies at UVM and honoring the group she calls the university's founding mothers. "These women radiate such passion, energy and enthusiasm," recalls Snow. "I knew we had to tell their stories."

The fourth floor of the building would fill what Colker described as a major void on campus, a lack of conference and meeting space. The main meeting hall could seat up to 900, and there would be a number of smaller meeting rooms as well.

Architectural features of the building include a four-story atrium that would directly adjoin Terrill Hall and look out upon a new academic quadrangle bordered by the library, Marsh Life Sciences, and the Commons. Planners are looking into local materials to use in construction; the brick and stone in the building will be selected for longevity and to blend aesthetically with the historic structures fronting the Green. Architects are also working with the Rocky Mountain Institute and faculty, staff, and students to incorporate environmentally sustainable elements in the design.

Landscaping under discussion would include water along the building's north side, and an oval of green space for outdoor gatherings that would be on the campus's highest point, approximately between the Aiken Building and Main Street.

WTW Architects, working with local firm Truex Cullins & Partners, will complete the design/development phase by the end of May. At that point, trustees will make a final decision on proceeding with the building that is projected to cost \$70 million, with an additional \$14 million for parking.

theview

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